

Teen Somali pirate sentenced
to nearly 34 years **pg 2**



Enjoy Aruba's
57th carnaval

Aua Gov't & public private
Partnership ... **pg 3**

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THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English

Caya G.F. Betico Croes 111 T. 588-9517 F. 5889518.

IPA also celebrates Aruba's 25th anniversary of Status Aparte



MT members of the Department of Culture together with Alice van Romondt and P/R Julienne Paskel gave a presentation at IPA – Aruba's Pedagogic Academy for future teachers, explaining what exactly entails the celebration program of Aruba's 25th year as an autonomous state within the Dutch kingdom.

Classes 2 and 4 of IPA were asked to participate in a project for elementary school students, called 'maletin di tesoro' -

treasure suitcase. At the conclusion of the initial presentation, some students were already inspired and came forward with interesting ideas, which were highly appreciated by committee members. On in particular, suggested a book with a complete and detailed history of Aruba to be used as part of classes from an early age so island youngsters will fully understand their origins and realize it is something to be appreciated. The intention is

for IPA students to visit all elementary schools with this treasure suitcase during the whole month of March, accompanied by Governor Fredis Refunjol, Ministers and Parliament members.

Photo shows IPA Director Ava Thode accompanied by teachers and students, and Department of Culture MT members Alice van Romondt, Zahira Zaandam, Vicky Arens, and Julienne Paskel.

Carnival advice from the Aruba Epileptic Foundation

ORANJESTAD -- Carnival season is in full swing and the Aruba Epileptic Foundation wishes to inform the public regarding procedures for dealing with an epileptic person if they are having a seizure during any of the festivities.

Diagnosed epilepsy patients are advised to take their medicines diligently, as prescribed by the doctor, and to avoid alcohol and fatigue. Stay out of the sun as much as possible and walk with you AZV card and the name of the medicine you are

using. It is advisable not to go out alone; if that is not avoidable, than inform those around you about your health condition.

There is a card for epileptic patients with information such as name, address, telephone number and who to call in case of an emergency. This card is available at Office System Aruba, Frankrijkstraat 10, near Ling & Sons Supermarket.

As in all things, those with epilepsy are advised to enjoy Carnival responsibly!

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Japan whalers suspend Antarctic hunt



Anti-whaling protesters Ralph Lowe (L) and former Dutch police officer Laurens de Groot are seen throwing objects at the Japanese whaling ship Nisshin Maru, from the

Steve Irwin protest ship, during a confrontation in the Southern Ocean in this March 3, 2008 file photo.

Japan has suspended its annual whale hunt in the Antarctic for now after a hardline anti-whaling group gave chase to its mother ship and it may call the fleet back home, a government official said.

Regular attempts by Sea Shepherd Conservation Society to interrupt hunts have caused irritation in Japan, one of only three countries that now hunt whales and where the government says it is an important cultural tradition

Leftist rebels free two hostages in Colombia

CALI, Colombia (AFP) — Leftist rebels yesterday released two hostages they had promised to free, the International Committee of the Red Cross said.

"The ICRC confirms the release of major (Guillermo)

Solorzano and corporal (Salin) Sanmiguel," a spokeswoman for the international humanitarian group said at the airport in Cali, 500 kilometers (311 miles) southwest of the capital, where they arrived moments after her statement was made.

The men were expected to have been freed on Sunday. However false release coordinates were received by the mission picking them up, according to the government, and the operation was pushed back.

Sanmiguel, kidnapped in May 2008 when he was 25, was reunited with his wife and daughter. Solorzano, 34, was taken in June 2007, and was expected to return to his family in Bogota.

The FARC hopes to swap the 16 other police and soldiers they hold for jailed guerrillas, but the Colombian government has refused.

US suspects Hezbollah presence in Chile

SANTIAGO, Chile (AFP) — Leaked US embassy cables made public here report US suspicions that Hezbollah raised funds and maintained contacts among the Chile's small community of Islamic fundamentalists.

An unclassified embassy cable dated February 27, 2006, and released Tuesday by WikiLeaks, said a "radical fundamentalist presence" was centered in the northern city of Iquique, and to a lesser degree in Santiago.

"These fundamentalists who are known to be associated with Hezbollah are increasing their presence and activity in Chile," the cable said, adding the intelligence on

them was insufficient to gauge their true intentions.

"There is substantial information that indicates that significant financial fund-raising for Hezbollah is taking place in northern Chile within the Muslim community," it said.

However, the cable went on to say that no hostile activity had been detected originating from either the Islamic Center in Santiago, nor from a Sunni mosque. "The Hezbollah groups in the northern part of Chile are believed to be financial cells," it said.

Periodically, there also have been unsubstantiated reports of plans for a terrorist attack in the region, "but nothing definite," the cable said.

Teen Somali pirate sentenced to nearly 34 years

NEW YORK CITY (AFP) — A teenaged Somali pirate captured in a dramatic high seas operation was sentenced by a US court yesterday to nearly 34 years in prison, despite defense pleas for leniency due to his young age.

Federal Judge Loretta Preska in New York said the sentence of 33 years, nine months for Abduwali Abdukhadir Muse would serve as "general deterrence in this kind of crime."

Muse was captured in 2009 at the scene of a dramatic clash between the US navy and Somali pirates holding hostage a US merchant captain, who was eventually rescued.

Prosecutors and the judge described Muse as a hardened pirate leader who displayed a cruel streak when he pretended to shoot the US captain of the Maersk Alabama cargo ship.

Preska highlighted "the extreme level of sadism and violence that MR Muse and his men employed."

After the sentencing, FBI assistant director-in-charge Janice Fedarcy said: "The



Abduwali Abdukhadir Muse

stiff sentence handed down today sends a clear message to others who would interfere with American vessels or do harm to Americans on the high seas: Whatever seas you ply, you are not beyond the reach of American justice."

But calling for the minimum sentence of 27 years, Muse's defense said that he was the youthful victim of life in a poverty stricken, chaotic country and had little choice in his line of work.

Muse's lawyers have argued he was only in his mid-teens at the time of the crime. However, a judge ruled that there was sufficient evidence of Muse being at least 18 and that he could be tried as an adult.

In court, Maersk Alabama crew member Collin Wright described Muse as the leader and said it had been "a very scary experience." Wright called for "the heaviest sentence possible."

Despite efforts by navies from around the globe to patrol the seas of Somalia -- a crucial approach route for ships coming to and from the Suez Canal -- piracy remains rampant in the Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean.

Just last weekend, Somali pirates are believed to have captured a large cargo vessel off Oman, with 13 Iranian and 10 Indian crew on board, European Union naval forces said.

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Pointers to Ponder

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He Left, Well....Stop Crying and let him Go!

advice for women PART II

Last edition, we discussed the problem of getting dumped by a man. Or, more mildly put, when a man walks out on a woman. This, we noted is something that happens quite frequently in our local community. I know that this problem is not unique to Aruba, but that it occurs all over the world. Wherever there are men not willing to make firm and sincere commitments, you will have this problem. I need to hasten to indicate here, in all fairness to men that the reason this happens is not always and only the man's doings, or the man's fault. Often, it is the woman who has some difficult areas in her character that simply pushes a man away. There are women who take their man for granted and "abuse" his love and attention. A pattern of this type of abuse very often back fires when the man decides to look elsewhere for more respect and kinder treatment, for a woman who can and will accept his tenderness and love. So, we can't just bash men and label them as the only culprit in this situation. Nonetheless, for our purposes, we are focusing in on a man leaving, in these articles.

We noted in last article that one of the things a woman needs to do when a man leaves is to cut all ties and avoid all contact with him. Decide that it is over and seek to begin again. Today, I am sharing a second principle I share with my clients who present with this situation. A second important mistake you should not

make is:

Second: Thinking you're unlovable, or a failure at love!

How many times have you wondered if the reason you can't find a good man to want to have a real, devoted and honest relationship with you is because there 's something wrong with YOU? You wonder if you're just a failure at love, or if maybe you're not attractive enough or if maybe you're undesirable. That kind of thinking is from the devil. You must not make this mistake, ever. Your man walking out on you had nothing to do with you not being loveable or being a failure at love. If you were loveable enough for him to be in love with you in the first place, if you were attractive enough to have gotten his attention back then when you started out, none of those things changed. You still are attractive today, you are still loveable today, and you are no failure just because the relationship went sour. Howbeit, there may be areas in your disposition or deportment that you may have been neglecting or behaving. You may have let your appearance slip, like no more make-up, no nice hairdo's, sloppy dressing, etc., which could contribute to him not being proud of you as he was when you took better care of yourself. And, if you became a nagger, overly critical, contentious and argumentative, that could turn off any good man after a while.

For this reason, it is good to talk to a psychologist or other wise counselor who can see you in a way you can't or wouldn't see yourself, and

guide you through potential personal changes you may have to make. You should see your breakup as a way for you to learn what you need to learn about who you are and what you need in order to be happy.

Feeling like you're unlovable or a failure is a disservice to yourself. It's creating patterns of thinking that make you even less confident and even needier in the future. You need to stop that right now!

It's better to feel gratitude and even relief that you were shown a way of being in a relationship that just doesn't work for you.

You'll know what kind of situation or man to watch out for next time. You'll know what you need to say and do when you get into a relationship with a new man so you don't go through another break up again.

You will learn to be a wiser, stronger woman who knows her boundaries and who knows what she will or won't tolerate. You need to use your current painful experience to teach you what real love is with a good man who will commit to you forever. Always remember that no man can ever love you and care for you more than God who made you. Trust Him to see you through this painful experience.

There is still another mistake you need to avoid, but due to space constraints, I will share that with you in next Morning News edition. Please, look out for it. Let me know if this has been helpful to you: themorningnewsaruba@yahoo.com.

Thanks.

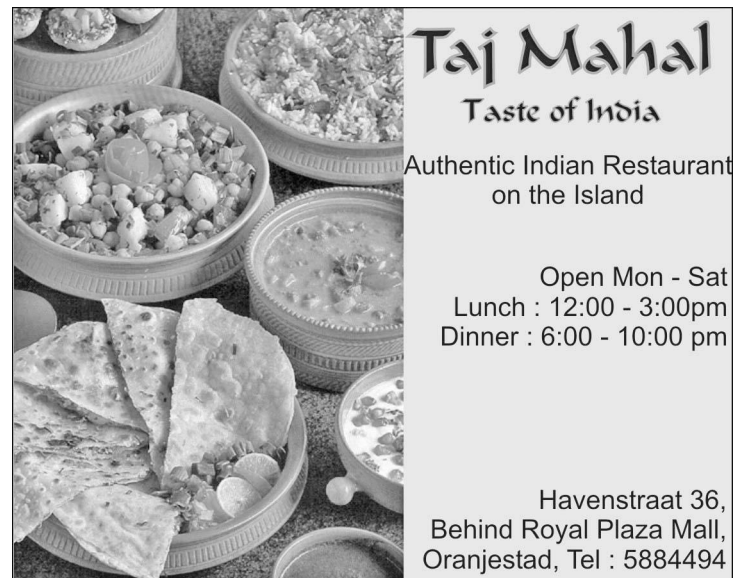
Call for pro-active monitoring of Dutch prisoners abroad

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands -- Parliament wants better monitoring of Dutch people being held in foreign jails. The Democrat D66 party, which called for the debate, says around 2,000 Dutch citizens are currently imprisoned abroad.

Party leader Alexander Pechtold said it was important for the Dutch government to

take a pro-active stance since we need as complete as possible a picture of their situation in order to help them.

In the wake of the execution of the Dutch-Iranian woman Zahra Bahrami, D66 is working on a bill which would offer assistance to every Dutch person at risk of the death penalty.



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Aruba Government and public private Partnership in conference



ORANJESTAD -- Tomorrow, Friday 18, Prime Minister Mike Eman and Minister of Infrastructure, Benny Sevinger will be hosting a conference in the Renaissance Convention Center to present the government's plans regarding "Public Private Partnership" in Aruba. Soon the government will issue public bids for the Avenida Berde (The Green Corridor) project. This project will include a four lane highway between Oranjestad and San Nicolaas and existing routes. It also includes a cycling path, sustainable illumination, green pastures and facilities for public transport (future plan).

The government is extending a cordial invitation to everyone interested as there will be a host of valuable information presented at the conference. The invitation is extended both to those in Aruba as well as internationally. General contractors, financial advisers, financial institutions, consultants, legal offices, engineers and architects, are all welcome.

The goals of the conference is to interest both local and international parties in the Aruba Public Private Participation (PPP) project, to present the government's plans and to market more

projects in the PPP format in the near future. Another goal of the conference is to promote networking and to construct a consortium between local and international parties.

The schedule of the conference is as follows: Registration opens at 9:00 a.m. The conference will commence at 9:30 a.m and will run through to 2:00 p.m. in the afternoon which will include lunch. There will be several speakers giving presentations, among them, Prime Minister Mike Eman and Minister of infrastructure Benny Sevinger who will illustrate the PPP projects of Aruba. Dutch Minister of Infrastructure and Environment, Mrs. Marcella van Valkenburg, will explain how the PPP format and DBFM (Design, Build, Finance and Maintain) works in Holland. And, Giridhar Srivasan of Grand Trunk Partners will describe his experiences and the benefits of the PPP format.

There will be ample opportunity for questions from the audience during the sessions.

For information and registration, the contact person is Marinus Wegereef at Tel. 582-7582 or via email at marinuswegereef@yahoo.com.



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The Clowns were also at hand to keep the kids busy and a variety of Valentine’s details to make the night a very memo-

rable one.

The night was a fulfilled event in a familiar ambiance. Tourists and locals alike enjoyed juicy bargains offered by different stores and restaurants.

The celebration ended with the famous romantic water fountain show to the music of Enya.

Stores at Paseo Herencia Shopping & Entertainment Center are open Monday – Saturday from 10a.m. – 10 p.m. and on Sunday from 5 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Restaurants are open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

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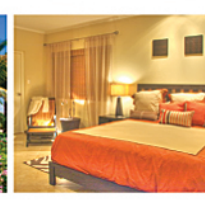
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Stern Revs Up for Aruba Banks' Car Loan Jam



Stern Automotive Dealer and Aruba Bank are teaming up to make it possible for you to shine in a new automobile, and, as they claim, for an incomparable price. On Friday February 18 the Aruba Bank Car Loan Jam is scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. at the Stern's dealership in Tanki Leendert.

During the festive evening a DJ will be on hand to delight everyone with music, along with many other surprises during the event.

The Aruba Bank Car Loan Jam is offering a super special interest rate of 6.5%. What makes this offer even

more spectacular is that you can purchase your automobile now and begin making your payments after three months. In addition, you also receive a pre-approved credit card with a US\$1000 credit and the chance to win a trip for two to Rio de Janeiro!

Stern has decided to also make a special offer to all buyers of an automobile; they have discounted several of their models, which will significantly reduce the buyers' monthly payments. Stern has chosen a few of their most popular models, with respect to their satisfaction, comfort, economy and uniqueness.



One of the models making big waves is the AVEO 2011 an especially comfortable and economical car, which, thanks to Aruba Bank is available to their clients with monthly payments of only Fls.583. For those in search of the ideal and safe car for their family, is the Captiva LS+ 2010 to the incredible price of Fls.982, - monthly;

and, is their best buy. But, there are only 15 of these models available.

Finally, the vehicle that has conquered the hearts of so many for its unique look, capacity and comfort, is the stylish Spark for a monthly payment of only Fls.475.

To apply for the Aruba Bank Car Loan one needs to show a valid ID, two of the

last pay slips and a reference letter from an employer and the loan may be approved on the spot.

Everyone is invited to visit the Stern's automobile showroom and begin the process of applying for the loan so they can come to the Jam preapproved. Loan requests may be made at any of Aruba Bank's branches.

Sci-Tech

Smartphones 'new El Dorado for computer criminals'

BARCELONA (AFP) — Smartphones are the new El Dorado for computer criminals and many owners are unaware of the risk or what to do about it, security experts warn.

As sales of smartphones and tablets have started to outpace those of personal computers, criminals are increasingly targeting the devices, security companies say.

It is a menace for both consumers and businesses because many people use their smartphones or tablets to access corporate networks without authorisation.

"This is something which is self-evident in the world of

PCs," Intel president and chief executive Paul Otellini said at the mobile industry's annual congress in Barcelona.

"We all do something to protect our computers and personal information from hackers," he said. "In mobile computing we need this as well."

Mobile devices increasingly hold personal and financial information, he warned. "I believe, I contend that security is one of the most important features," the Intel boss said.

A study for major anti-virus software maker AVG found that six percent of US smartphone owners' devices

had been infected with malware that was surreptitiously sending out their credit card details.

"The things that people need to be protected from on PCs they now need to be protected from when using their smartphones," said Stephen Simpson, consumer products chief at AVG.

There are already some 1,000 different pieces of malware circulating that target smartphones, according to Kaspersky Lab, a leading computer security firm.

Smartphones are an attractive target for criminals as "there is a lot of money involved, it is an easy job and it is low risk," said the firm's founder, Eugene Kaspersky.

ICC ban Twitter during World Cup matches



NEW DELHI (AFP) — The International Cricket Council (ICC) is to impose a blanket ban on all Twitter posts by

team officials during matches in a bid to be seen to be doing all it can to crack down on corruption.

Long-serving Australia manager Steve Bernard has been 'tweeting' since August last year.

ICC chiefs insist they have no issues with anything Bernard has posted in the past.

But, given players are banned from having access to mobile phones during matches, they thought it prudent following the recent spot-fixing scandal involving Pakistan, to avoid a situation where team officials left themselves open to corruption claims, however baseless, as a result of a Twitter post.

"As recent events have shown, the ICC has a zero-tolerance approach to corruption and anything that can negate that possibility is something we are definitely interested in," ICC spokesman James Fitzgerald told AFP on Tuesday.

"This is just a precaution, it's not something we are overly concerned about. But we do feel a team manager's phone should be used for operational purposes only during matches.

"This applies to all teams and this decision has not been taken in response to anything the Australia team manager has said or done previously."

Players and officials will though still be allowed to post Twitter messages when their sides are not playing matches.

Russia to export 2.5 tonnes of caviar to EU: watchdog



MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia expects to export at least 2.5 tonnes of sturgeon caviar to the European Union this year after lifting a nine-year ban on such sales, the fisheries watchdog said Wednesday.

The world's second-largest official producer of caviar after Iran said earlier this month that it would resume EU sales of black caviar from farmed fish, sending a 150-kilogramme (330-pound) test shipment to Europe.

Russia banned the harvest of sturgeon caviar in 2006 to help fight overfishing. Caviar production resumed in specially designed farms in 2010.

The head of the Federal Fisheries Agency said Wednesday that Russia expected to send 2.5 tonnes "or more" of the premium delicacy to Europe this year, the RIA Novosti news agency reported.

The report provided no export figures to other countries.

In 2010, Russia and three other former Soviet republics set quotas allowing for the export of three tonnes of sturgeon caviar between them.

The decision was reached to help fight poachers, who were flooding the black market with illegally-produced caviar.

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Computer crushes human 'Jeopardy!' champs

CHICAGO (AFP) — An IBM computer crushed two human champions in the second round of a man vs. machine showdown on the popular US television game show "Jeopardy!"

Most of the banter and gentle humor that usually pepper the popular quiz show was gone as the supercomputer dominated the game by beating his human opponents to the buzzer again and again.

Ken Jennings -- who holds the "Jeopardy!" record of 74 straight wins -- shook his buzzer in silent frustration as the computer's artificial voice answered the first dozen challenges without pause, getting all but one right.

"Watson" - named after Thomas Watson, the founder of the US technology giant -- receives the clues electronically by text message at the same time as they are revealed to the human contestants.

Watson, which is not connected to the Internet, plays the game by crunching through multiple algorithms at dizzying speed and attaching a percentage score to what it believes is the correct

response.

It beat Jennings and Brad Rutter -- who won a record \$3.25 million on the show -- to the buzzer on 24 of 30 questions.

Five-time "Jeopardy!" champion Jeffrey Spoeer sympathized with Jennings and Rutter, and said the computer's speed to the buzzer seemed like an unfair advantage.

"I gotta root for the humans," said Spoeer, who won 105,000 dollars on the show in November 2006.

But he was deeply impressed with the computer's skills.

"The actual game play was just amazing, that it would know the answers and discern which one is the correct one," Spoeer told AFP after viewing the first show.

"It's a terrific experiment."

Watson, which has been under development at IBM Research labs in New York since 2006, is the latest machine developed by IBM to challenge mankind.

In 1997, an IBM computer named "Deep Blue" defeated world chess champion Garry Kasparov in a six-game match.



Japanese dancing group "World order", led by former kick boxer Genki Sudo (C), in business suits perform with US computer giant Dell's smart phone "Streak" at a promotion event of the Android OS electronic gadget with a 5-inch sized touch screen display in Tokyo. AFP PHOTO



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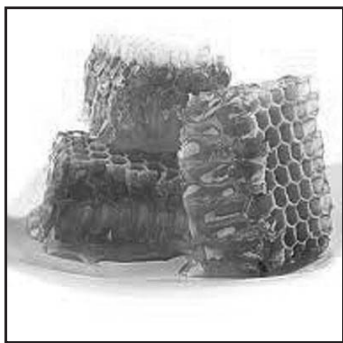
Honey

Background

Honey is a sweet, viscous fluid produced by honeybees (*Apis mellifera*) from the nectar of flowers. It is generally recognized as safe (GRAS), but there have been numerous reports of certain types of honey produced from the nectar of flowering plants from the genus *Rhododendron* and others that have toxic effects in humans and in animals.

Honey is easily absorbed and utilized by the body. It contains about 70-80% sugar; the rest is water, minerals, and traces of protein, acids, and other substances. Honey has been used by ancient Egyptians, Assyrians, Chinese, Romans, and Greeks as a medicinal remedy for the management of wounds, skin ailments, and various gastrointestinal diseases.

Honey's therapeutic importance as a known antibacterial agent has been recognized since 1892. Modern research has been conducted on the role of honey in chronic wound management and other indications. However, high quality



studies are lacking, and further research is warranted to establish the therapeutic effect of honey in any indication.

Evidence

These uses have been tested in humans or animals. Safety and effectiveness have not always been proven. Some of these conditions are potentially serious, and should be evaluated by a qualified healthcare provider.

Burns

Early evidence suggests that honey may reduce burn-healing time. Additional study is needed to make a firm recommendation.

Dermatitis (dandruff)

The evidence supporting the use of honey in the treatment

of dermatitis and dandruff is limited. Further investigation is needed to make a firm recommendation.

Diabetes mellitus type 2

Early evidence suggests that honey may help lower blood sugar levels in diabetic patients. Additional study is warranted in this area.

Fournier's gangrene

Currently, there is insufficient available evidence for the use of honey in the treatment of Fournier's gangrene. Additional study is needed.

Gastroenteritis (infantile)

Currently, there is insufficient human evidence to recommend honey for the treatment of infantile gastroenteritis.

Herpes

Preliminary study found honey effective in treating labial but not genital herpes. More research is needed in this area to draw a firm conclusion.

Hypercholesterolemia (high cholesterol)

In general, the evidence supporting the use of honey to treat high cholesterol is weak. Additional study is needed to make a firm recommendation.

Hypertension (high blood pressure)

Currently, there is preliminary

evidence that suggests benefit in the use of honey in the treatment of high blood pressure. Additional study is needed to make a firm recommendation.

Leg ulcers

Honey dressings have been used on leg ulcers with no apparent clinical benefit. Additional study is needed to make a firm recommendation.

Plaque / gingivitis

Currently there is limited study showing a small benefit in the use of honey in the treatment of gingival plaque and gingivitis. Further study is needed.

Radiation mucositis

Currently, there is insufficient available evidence to recommend for or against the use of honey for radiation mucositis.

Rhinoconjunctivitis

Currently there is insufficient human evidence to recommend honey for the treatment of rhinoconjunctivitis. Early study suggests no benefit. Skin graft healing (split thickness)

Currently there is insufficient human evidence to recommend honey for the treatment of split-thickness skin graft.

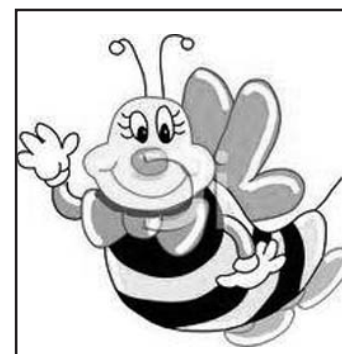
Wound healing

The primary studied use of honey is for wound manage-

ment, particularly in promoting rapid wound healing, deodorizing, and debriding necrotic tissue. The types of wounds studied are varied; most are non-healing wounds such as chronic ulcers, postoperative wounds and burns. Although honey has apparent antibacterial effects, more human study is needed in this area.

Pregnancy & Breastfeeding

There are some concerns regarding the use of honey in pregnant and breastfeeding women. Potentially harmful contaminants such as *C. botulinum* and grayanotoxins can be found in some types of honey and may be harmful to pregnant or breastfeeding woman and to the growing fetus.



ARUBA CARNIVAL

Calypso & Roadmarch Contest 2011 audience win with SETAR NV



During this year's Calypso & Roadmarch Contest, it was not only the competitors that walked away with rewards. Various attendees won a variety of fabulous prizes courtesy of SETAR N.V. and Caribbean Mercantile Bank.

Daphne Tecklenborg and Zizian Goeloe were captured by the camera during the contest and so received their prize courtesy of SETAR N.V. Daphne received a Blackberry mobile device and Zizian an Android Galaxy Spica.

SETAR also held a SMS campaign during the event offering three prizes.

Mrs. Gladys Tromp won a Blackberry, courtesy of SETAR N.V.; Jordan Geerman won a Money Card, from Caribbean Mercantile Bank; and Fidelio Geerman and Olga Vlijt won three months HBO Cable package subscriptions. Congratulations to all the winners!

Photo shows the lucky winners receiving their prizes from the hands of a SETAR executive.



Carnival Royalty 2011 receive gifts from SETAR



SETAR NV, Aruba's national telecommunications company, is a major sponsor of Carnival 57. They recently rewarded the three victors of music and queen competitions. Mrs. Carnaval 2011, Angeliq Stuger Potsma of TOB Carnival Group, Tumba King Chendell Beaumont and double-

crown winner, Calypso & Roadmarch King Claudius Phillips were presented with valuable gifts.

During the Calypso & Roadmarch contest, Kevin James of NBO, better known as "The Baron," dedicated his Roadmarch composition "Blackberry Baron" to SETAR N.V. and RIM-Research In Motion, which is the company behind the innovative and award-winning Blackberry product line.

RIM executive, Angela Frair, was very impressed with the song and the exposure Blackberry received. RIM and SETAR N.V. joined forces to present Kevin James with a Blackberry Torch as a thank-you gesture for his catchy and inventive entry



Time to cast your vote for your favorite candidate for Carnival Queen 2011



Q-1



Q-2



Q-3



Q-5



Q-4

SETAR N.V. announced SMS voting for Aruba Carnival Queen 2011 is now open.

Anyone wishing to vote for their favorite candidate can do so by sending an SMS to the number 221 with the code representing the queen of their choice.

The codes are:
Q1= Rainy Pinky
Q2=Royal Carnival Group
Q3=Majestic
Q4=T.O.B
Q5= E.P.I

Carnaval Schedule	
FRI. FEBR 18	CARNAVAL HAPPY HOUR - PLACE: PENDING
SAT. FEBR 19 7:30 P.M.	ARUBA'S 57TH CARNAVAL QUEEN ELECTION AND CORONATION PLACE: ARUBA ENTERTAINMENT CENTER
SUN. FEBR 20 10:00 A.M.	TRANSFER OF COMMAND BY THE PRIME MINISTER TO ALL PRINCE AND PANTO PLACE: GOVERNMENT BUILDING
SUN. FEBR 20 2:00 P.M.	CHILDREN'S PARADE IN SAN NICOLAS



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4th Game	\$150
5th Game	\$150
Intermission	
6th Game	\$175
7th Game	\$225
8th Game	Progressive
9th Game	\$500

Progressive within 50 Calls
51 Calls Afls 1,500
52 or more Afls 175

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Destruction of Aruba's nature continues...



It is almost as if there is a competition going on between humans and the invasive Boa constrictors to see who can destroy Aruba's natural environment the fastest! One of the most destructive forms of human conduct at the expense of nature is called "habitat fragmentation" (see : Wikipedia).

On Sunday morning, January 13th 2011, I witnessed another 'quiet disaster' in progress. This time at Grapefield in San Nicolas, located at the east side of our island. As a lover of Aruba's nature, I discovered the construction of some type of racing facility in the middle of the green stroke of nature approximately a couple of hundred meters away from the prison facility known as KIA. This

'development' is taking fragmentation of our environment to a supreme level.

Whereas in Aruba we desire so much to 'go green', regrettably what we often really do is just the opposite. I am convinced that it is not difficult to come up with intelligent solutions, based on the win-win principle. With great shame and hurt in my heart I share this very sad and embarrassing development with you. With all the knowledge about environmental issues that is available on Aruba nowadays, we should be able to make better informed decisions. Mediocrity is not a standard to be proud of.

Greg Peterson
Aruba Birdlife Conservation

COMICS



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Courtesy of



CALVIN and HOBBS



CROSSWORD



CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Actor Wallach
4. Informal talk
8. Gossip
11. Outline
13. Bungle
14. Incense
15. Playwright Rice
16. Water server
17. Wickedness
18. Takes off
20. Appearance
22. Flock members
24. Large pebble
25. Hermits
28. Three Musketeers member
30. Mimic
31. Yarn
33. Lithuanians' cousins
37. Auto
38. Oahu garland
39. Eroded
41. Cultivator
42. Run off to marry
44. Platter
46. Source of metal
47. Burdened
49. Concerns
52. Singer Della _____
54. The dark
56. Ventilate
57. Sniper
61. Some monks

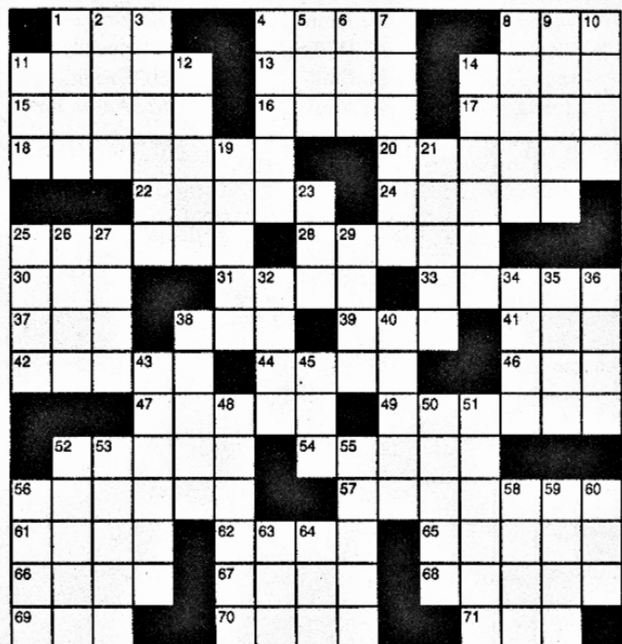
DOWN

62. Gloom
65. Animated
66. Trick
67. Sandusky's lake
68. Sweetened the soil
69. Washington bill
70. New Jersey team
71. Family room
1. Perry's creator
2. Liberty's light
3. Glacial period: 2 wds.
4. Treasure or hope member
5. Hee's companion
6. Peer Gynt's mother
7. Defeat soundly
8. Fact
9. Wonderland's girl
10. Waist encircler
11. TV magnate Turner
12. Mistake
14. Rest
19. Flavor
21. Pilfered
23. Baseball's Bando
25. Shoestring
26. October's gem
27. Sleuth Wolfe

29. Pekoe and oolong

32. Assistant
34. "____ Shalt Not Kill"
35. Ripped
36. Bishoprics
38. Smallest
40. Leg part
43. Make happy
45. Wayside hotel

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Sudoku



SOLUTION

6	8	1	7	4	9	2	5	3
9	2	5	1	6	3	7	4	8
6	7	4	2	8	5	9	1	3
5	1	2	9	3	6	7	8	4
8	9	3	4	7	1	5	6	2
7	4	6	5	2	8	9	1	3
4	6	9	1	7	3	8	2	5
2	3	8	6	5	4	1	7	9
1	5	7	8	9	2	6	3	4

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.



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Finance

BRIEFS:

Taiwan battles to stabilise rice prices:

TAIPEI (AFP) – Taiwanese authorities plan to inject tens of thousands of rice into the market next month in a bid to stabilise domestic prices, officials said.

The move came as World Bank president Robert Zoellick warned food prices rose by 15 percent between October and January, pushing 44 million people into poverty in developing countries since June last year.

To help reduce the cost of local livestock and poultry, the Council of Labour Affairs said that up to 65,000 tonnes of rice would be released from its inventory for sale to local animal farmers in March.

=====

Japan, India sign free trade pact:

TOKYO (AFP) – Japan and India signed a free trade pact, under which the high-tech nation and the South Asian giant pledged to scrap tariffs on 94 percent of goods within a decade.

Japan's Foreign Minister Seiji Maehara and Indian Commerce Minister Anand Sharma signed the deal in Tokyo, hoping it will boost two-way trade which totalled 900 billion yen (\$10.7 billion) in 2009 -- less than one percent of Japan's total foreign trade.

Japan is seeking more free trade partnerships in the region as it looks to catch up with export rival South Korea, and after China overtook it as the world's second-largest economy in 2010.

=====

Merkel names aide Weidmann to head Bundesbank:

BERLIN (AFP) – Chancellor Angela Merkel chose Jens Weidmann, a close aide, to head Germany's powerful central bank, a move analysts took to mean she has given up on having a German lead the European Central Bank.

The appointment of Weidmann, 42, followed the surprise resignation of Axel Weber last week and sparked concerns in some quarters that the jealously guarded independence of the Bundesbank might be undermined.

Weidmann will take up his new position on May 1, Merkel said, also appointing Sabine Lautenschlaeger-Peiter as vice-president of the institution.

=====

US book chain Borders files for bankruptcy:

WASHINGTON (AFP) – US bookstore chain Borders announced that it has filed for bankruptcy protection from its creditors so that it can reorganize and re-emerge as "a stronger and more vibrant book seller."

In recent years, Borders has lost millions of dollars, in an industry in major transition from print to digital products.

In July, Borders launched an online electronic book store to challenge Amazon, Apple and Barnes & Noble in the fast-growing market for digital books -- companies that the Ann Arbor, Michigan based chain is seen as having badly trailed in the rapidly changing book market.

=====

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Rising food demand could drive inflation: ECB chief



European Central Bank head Jean-Claude Trichet pictured here

FRANKFUR, Germany (AFP) – European Central Bank head Jean-Claude Trichet said that food prices could keep rising due to increasing demand from emerging countries and suggested a global effort to raise production in Africa.

Changing consumption patterns in large emerging countries have fuelled food prices and "it is quite possible that this will continue for a while longer," Trichet told the German weekly Die Zeit in an interview.

"At the same time, there are huge expanses of land in Africa which could be used

for agricultural purposes," Trichet added. "We need to provide the right incentives for African farmers in this respect."

He called the situation "an important global issue which should be taken up by bodies such as the G20" group of developed and emerging economies.

Higher prices would not force the ECB to raise interest rates but the bank would focus on avoiding "second-round effects" whereby high oil and food prices are transformed into generalised inflation.

It would watch in particular for signs of "a wage-price spiral," Trichet said.

Countries where economic activity is pushing inflation to levels that have begun to ring alarms, as is the case in Germany, should adopt "more restrictive" policies "to avoid the economy overheating or speculation getting out of control," Trichet said.

He noted that "Germany has also succeeded remark-

ably well in regaining its competitiveness over the last 10 years (and was) ... now reaping the rewards of its patient efforts."

But the ECB president cautioned that German output had not yet returned to levels seen before the global financial and economic crises.

Trichet downplayed notions that some Germans were becoming more sceptical of the 17-nation eurozone because they might have to provide substantial financial support for weaker members in the coming years.

"Deep down, everybody is aware of the importance of our historic project," he said.

Trichet spoke a few days after German central bank president Axel Weber decided not to seek another term, effectively ruling him out as a successor to Trichet as head of the ECB later this year.

That has raised concern that Germans could lose faith in the ECB's determination to keep inflation under control.

Trichet did not comment at length on Weber's decision, saying only that he respected it.

US lawmakers to push new Iran sanctions



WASHINGTON (AFP) – Amid anti-government protests in Iran, a group of US lawmakers said they would introduce legislation aimed at tightening economic sanctions on the Islamic republic.

The measure would require US companies to disclose any of their or their affiliates' investments in Iran that violate existing US sanc-

tions laws in their quarterly or yearly reports to the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

The bill would also require US banks to report activities by their foreign correspondent banks -- effectively intermediaries able to do business in Iran -- that may fall afoul of US laws.

Democratic Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Republi-

can Senator Mark Kirk, Republican Representative Dan Burton and Democratic Representative Ted Deutch were to detail their proposal.

But in a statement late Tuesday they charged that at least eight publicly listed companies, and 18 US banks either directly or indirectly invested in Iran. They did not name the firms involved.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

S	O	D	A	E	R	A	S	E	H	A	M
L	O	A	M	M	A	L	T	A	I	S	A
E	Z	R	A	S	I	T	A	R	T	H	I
D	E	N	S	E	N	O	N	H	O	A	X
				S	L	I	M	G	A	M	E
A	R	T	S	W	A	B	R	E	M	U	S
R	E	E	L	O	K	E	F	E	N	O	K
A	A	R	O	N	E	L	L	U	S	A	G
B	R	I	D	E	G	R	O	O	M	T	S
M	A	G	O	O	W	R	A	P	E	L	Y
				I	N	T	O	I	R	A	Q
J	O	H	N	P	A	D	Y	U	C	C	A
A	R	U	G	M	E	D	I	A	A	H	A
P	A	N	A	R	E	A	L	S	I	L	L
E	L	K	H	A	N	N	A	I	S	M	E

A must see while on Aruba! The "Fontein Caves"



Around the world, tourists do a lot of site-seeing. That's the way they learn about other cultures and their histories. Aruba offers a great sanctuary to lay in the sun and get a tan, but there is much more to this small island.

One of the island's treasures are the "Fontein" caves located in Aruba's National Park, Parke Arikok.

Aruba has a lot of caves, some are small others very big, some are under the sea others above the sea, in some of them Indian drawings were found while in others only a few fos-

sils. Every cave has its own distinct uniqueness which sets it apart. The "Fontein" Cave (fountain cave) got this name because there is a spring water source in the cave. Years ago when there was no tap water the Aruban community got water out of the "Fontein" Cave. For safety they first boiled the water just to be sure the bacteria were killed. The area around the cave is very green because of the water as it is not only found inside the cave but also outside. It's nice to walk in the surrounding area where one can see the fishes in

the water, birds in the trees in complete serenity. The "Fontein" Cave was made by the power of the sea, a little bit strange when you see the sea 300 meters away from the cave. But Aruba has changed and is still changing, just like the whole world does.

The "Fontein" Cave is formed by coral, limestone and minerals. When visiting the cave you will think it is just formed by rocks, but once inside one can see how special it is as it changes all the time. In the cave there are a lot of bats, the long nose and long tongue bat.

In the "Fontein" Cave Indian drawings were found, only at the beginning of the cave, meaning they used the cave only for protection against the weather. The drawings are probably made with iron oxide (extracted from coral) and from juice of the Brazilian tree. The rangers of Arikok National Park are protecting the drawings really good, because some of them have been completely damaged by the sea wind and humans. The cave is in a nature area, full of Aruba's flora and fauna. Sometimes the rangers catch snakes and they put them for a few days in a terrarium so tourists can see what lives on Aruba. You can visit the cave everyday from 9:30 a.m. till 4:15 p.m. And for the real cave freak, together with a ranger you can walk up to 250 meters into the cave.

"Fontein" Cave is one of Aruba natural wonders and is well worth a visit. Don't forget your camera!

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These fabulous loft apartments are more spacious, with the sleeping area upstairs on the loft. All apart-

ments are completely furnished with cable TV. The open kitchen is very spacious and equipped with stove top, refrigerator, toaster/oven and coffee maker (microwave optional). The apartments are air-conditioned, with daily maid service, private parking and a mini market.

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Famous Bollywood studio up for sale: reports



MUMBAI, India (AFP) – One of Bollywood's most famous film studios has been put up for sale, reports said this week, with the location in line to be turned into a residential or commercial complex.

Several newspapers said that the 4.5-acre (1.8-hectare) Filmistan Studio site in the Mumbai suburb of Goregaon, which produced hits in the golden age of the 1940s and 1950s, could be sold for up to six billion rupees (\$131 million).

"It is a prime piece of property and we expect to get a good price for it," M.L. Gupta, vice-chairman and managing director of the site's joint owners, Kamanwala Housing Construction Limited, told the Hindustan Times newspaper.

But he denied a deal had been concluded with a major real estate firm.

The location began life as a production house set up by producer Shashadar Mukherjee and actor Ashok Kumar in 1943, becoming known as

Filmistan Film Production.

It went on to make nearly 60 hit films, including "Nagin" (Snake), "Anarkali", "Shaheed" (Martyr) and "Shabnam".

The 14-set studio was sold to a mill owner in the late 1950s and has since been rented out to filmmakers.

The Times of India quoted sources as saying that the studio's owners had decided to sell because it was no longer financially viable.

Filmmaker Vipul Shah described the sale as an "emotional let-down", coming after two other vintage Bollywood studios -- Kamalistan and Natraj Studio -- were also sold in recent years.

"Every filmmaker worth his salt must have shot portions of their films, if not the entire movie, there. I feel sad that another landmark studio goes down," he told the Mumbai Mirror tabloid.

There was no immediate comment from the owners when contacted by AFP.

Was Coke's secret recipe revealed by US radio show?

CHICAGO (AFP) – An edgy public radio show has revealed what it purports to be the secret recipe for Coca Cola -- a formula which has become the stuff of legend after decades of careful marketing by one of the world's most recognizable brands.

The recipe is supposedly kept in a locked vault, and Coke at one point had an advertising campaign about the two top executives who knew the secret and couldn't fly on the same plane or the formula could be lost forever.

"We think we may have found the original recipe for Coca Cola," said the host of "This American Life" Ira Glass in opening the hour-long program that aired over the weekend. "One of the most famously guarded trade secrets on the planet -- I have it right here and I am going to read it to you and read it to the world and make my case for why it is real, despite what Coca Cola may say."

The handwritten formula was discovered in a pharmacist's old book of recipes and published in the company's hometown paper -- the Atlanta Journal Constitution -- in



1979, Glass said.

"If that seems a strange and random place to find this kind of thing, well, Coke was invented by a pharmacist and was originally sold at pharmacy soda fountains," he said.

The book apparently originally belonged to an acquaintance of Coke's inventor, John Pemberton, and was then passed from one pharmacist to another before it was eventually discovered by the newspaper columnist.

What convinced Glass is that the formula matched -- and filled out -- a partial recipe found in Coke's archives that also became public.

Unfortunately, the recipe tastes nothing like today's

Coke, with modern labs much better at simulating flavors, and the original recipe being known for tasting like fruity medicine. But that doesn't mean it's not the original recipe, Glass said.

A spokesperson for Coca Cola insisted that its secret was safe.

"The ingredients used in our beverages are listed on the product labels and many third parties -- including 'This American Life' -- have tried over time to crack the secret formula of Coca-Cola," spokeswoman Kerry Tressler said in an e-mail.

"Try as they might to crack that formula, there truly is only one 'real thing.'"

Rapper Tinie Tempah is big winner at Brit Awards

LONDON, England (AFP) – Rapper Tinie Tempah has confirmed his rise to the top of the British music industry by winning two Brit Awards at London's O2 Arena.

The London hip-hop star, who scored two number-one hits in 2010 with singles "Pass Out" and "Written in the Stars" collected Best British Breakthrough Act and Best British Single at the biggest night of the UK's pop calendar.

The singer promised he would toast his success in true pop-star style.

"I'm going to get really messed up and everyone here is invited," he said after the ceremony. "We are going to get really wrecked."

The 22-year-old missed out on the most prestigious award of the night, Best British Album, which went to folk-quartet Mumford & Sons for their record "Sigh No More."

"This is very bizarre, very strange. Thank you very much indeed. We are very honoured, very humbled," lead singer Marcus Mumford said.

Tinie Tempah -- real name Patrick Okogwu -- also lost out in the Best Male Artist category, which was topped by hip-hop and R&B artist Plan



B, also known as Strickland Banks.

Canadian group Arcade Fire also won two prizes, claiming the Best International Band and Best International Album awards.

The indie collective paid tribute to English artists New Order, The Clash and David Bowie during their acceptance speech.

Recently reformed five-piece outfit and Brit veterans Take That opened up the show with a live performance before walking away with the award for Best British Group, 18 years after winning their first Brit award.

Robbie Williams, who re-joined the band in July last

year, confirmed he would not be joining Tinie Tempah in a post-show blowout.

"I can't wait to get back to the flat, hug the wife and have a cup of tea and biscuits," the singer said.

The Brits ceremony has a reputation for controversy and pop-star debauchery, but the assembled divas and rockers were on their best behaviour.

Michael Jackson's 1996 performance of "Earth Song" was famously interrupted by Pulp singer Jarvis Cocker's bottom-wiggling stage invasion, while former deputy prime minister John Prescott had a vat of water dumped on him by group Chumbawamba in 1998.

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Armstrong retires from cycling



AUSTIN (AFP) - Seven-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong on Wednesday announced his retirement from professional cycling at the age of 39.

"Today, I am announcing my retirement from professional cycling in order to devote myself full-time to my family, to the fight against cancer and to leading the foundation I established before I won my first Tour de France," Armstrong said in a statement.

"My focus now is raising my five children, promoting the mission of (his foundation) Livestrong, and growing entrepreneurial ventures with our great corporate partners in the fight against cancer."

Armstrong initially retired

from cycling after the 2005 Tour de France, but returned to competition in 2009.

The American went on to finish third in the 2009 Tour de France and most recently placed 67th in the Tour Down Under in Australia last month.

There were hopes that Armstrong would race in the May 15-22 Tour of California, America's biggest cycling race after changes in the event's drug test programme opened the door for him to do so.

Armstrong is the subject of a federal investigation in the United States after allegations of doping levelled by disgraced former teammate Floyd Landis, who was stripped of his 2006 Tour de France title for using illegal

substances.

But Armstrong, who was diagnosed with testicular cancer at the age of 25, has never tested positive for performance-enhancing drugs and has consistently denied allegations of doping.

International Cycling Union president Pat McQuaid dubbed Armstrong an "icon" in the sport.

"His contribution to cycling has been enormous, from both the sporting point of view and his personality," said McQuaid, quoted by the BBC.

"All sports need global icons and he has become a global icon for cycling. The sport of cycling has a lot to be thankful for because of Lance Armstrong."

Five-star Broad saves England from battling Canada

DHAKA (AFP) - Stuart Broad grabbed a five-wicket haul as England doused late resistance from big-hitting Rizwan Cheema to carve out a narrow 16-run victory over Canada in a World Cup warm-up game on Wednesday.

Rizwan threatened to take the game away with his explosive 70-ball 93 before Broad struck to remove the

batsman and restrict Canada to 227 off 46.1 overs in reply to England's 243 all out at the Fatullah stadium in Dhaka.

The paceman, making a surprise comeback after a stomach injury, finished with 5-37 to add to the efforts of Matt Prior (78) and Jonathan Trott (57) with the bat after England won the toss and elected to bat.

England's Kevin Pieter-

sen, a surprise promotion to the opener's slot, insisted the side were not unduly worried after being given a scare by rank outsiders Canada.

"We just need to reassess what we are going to do in the middle overs in conditions like this, where we are going to get our wickets, what fields we are going to set," he told Sky Sports News.

"But at the end of the day one bloke from Canada played absolutely beautifully, everything hit the middle of the bat. And that can happen on any particular day."

England play their second warm-up against Pakistan on Friday before starting their World Cup campaign against the Netherlands in Nagpur on February 22.

Canada take on Sri Lanka in Hambantota on February 20.

\$17.5 mln pledge for S. Korea Paralympics

PYEONGCHANG (AFP) - South Korea's eastern alpine resort of Pyeongchang promised Wednesday to spend about \$17.5 million on Paralympic facilities as part of its bid for the 2018 winter Olympics.

Pyeongchang lost out to Vancouver for the 2010

Games and to the Russian resort of Sochi for 2014.

The resort, 180 kilometres (112 miles) east of Seoul, is competing with Annecy in France and Germany's Munich for the 2018 event. The winner will be announced at the IOC General Assembly in Durban on July 6.





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Aloha Bridge Club Aruba (ABCA) game results



RESULTS THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10

A total of 11 pairs joined the bridge session at the members lounge of the Aruba Beach Club Resort.

The results 50% and higher are as follows:

1. Stascha Hornix / Henk Berghuizen 66.52%
2. Annette Ybeles / Joke Henriquez 60.69%
3. Nelly Aal / Gerry Meenhorst 50.86%

RESULTS FRIDAY, February 11

A total of 11 pairs joined the evening bridge session at the Frank Conway Room of Casa del Mar

The results 50% and higher are as follows:

1. Fred van der Leest / Chris Joosten 66.25%
2. Addy Eilers / Willem

Jacobusse 60.93 %

3. Agi and Andy Bodony 51.04 %

4. Helen and Chris Goody 50.63 %

4. Sheila Lampe / Edith Henriquez 50.63 %

Aloha Bridge Club Aruba meets twice a week: on Thursday mornings at the Members Lounge of the Aruba Beach Club, starting at 9.00 am and on Friday evenings at the Frank Conway Room of Casa del Mar starting at 7.30 pm. Signing up closes ten minutes before starting time. Fee for guest players: \$ 6.00 or Afl. 10.00 per person.

The club can also be of assistance in finding single players a bridge partner. Please call Addy Eilers : tel. 582-4953

Hewitt ousts Lu while Briton Watson makes last eight



MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AFP) - Australian Lleyton Hewitt ousted Taiwan seventh seed Yen-Hsun Lu 6-4, 7-6 (7/3) on Wednesday to reach the second round of a 1.32 million-dollar ATP and WTA indoor tournament.

The Aussie veteran booked a date with Frenchman Adrian Mannarino on

Thursday for a berth in the quarter-finals opposite either Serbia's Janko Tipsarevic or US top seed Andy Roddick.

Belgium's Xavier Malisse, who became a ninth seed after Frenchman Gael Monfils was forced to withdraw with a left wrist injury suffered last week in San Jose, retired from his match trailing Frenchman Florent Serra 6-2, 1-0.

On the women's side, British qualifier Heather Watson reached the quarter-finals by outlasting French qualifier Stephanie Foretz Gacon 6-2, 5-7, 6-4.

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US basketball stars to visit India as sports envoys

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Former NBA star George "The Iceman" Gervin and WNBA champion Katie Smith will travel to India this month to act as sports envoys promoting the United States abroad, the State Department said Wednesday.

Gervin and Smith will visit Mumbai and New Delhi from February 22 to March 2 to conduct basketball clinics with young Indians, meet university students, and take part in community events in "underserved areas," it said.

A Hall of Famer, Gervin, who played for the San Antonio Spurs, is a three-time NBA champion and was voted to the NBA's 50 Greatest Players list in 1996, it said. Smith is a six-time WNBA All-Star for the Washington Mystics.

"Sports diplomacy envoys build on Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's vi-

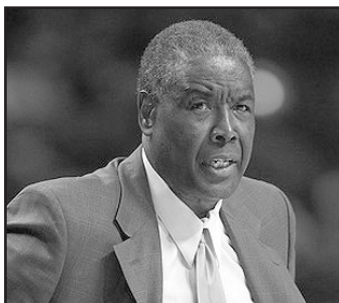
sion of 'smart power diplomacy,'" the State Department said in a statement.

Smart power -- which harnesses non-military aspects of US power like its sports, educational and cultural prowess -- is designed to "bring people together and foster greater understanding among people and cultures," it said.

The State Department said Gervin and Smith will also watch the finals of the Mahindra NBA Challenge, the largest, multi-city basketball league in India -- which is a joint effort by the NBA and Basketball Federation of India (BFI).

Current and former NBA and WNBA players will also travel this year to the Dominican Republic, Haiti, India, Jordan, Republic of the Congo, Uzbekistan, and Venezuela, it said. Their names will be released at a later date.

Silas becomes Bobcats coach on permanent basis



CHARLOTTE (AFP) - Paul Silas, a three-time NBA champion player in his 11th season as a coach, had the interim tag removed from his coaching contract with the NBA's Charlotte Bobcats on Wednesday.

Just two days after Charlotte thrashed the reigning NBA champions Los Angeles Lakers 109-89, the Bobcats rewarded Silas by extending his contract through the 2011-2012 season and made him officially the fourth

coach in team history.

The Bobcats, owned by retired NBA legend Michael Jordan, fired coach Larry Brown on December 22 after a 9-19 start to the season.

Silas, 67, had been out of the NBA for five years but returned to guide the Bobcats to a 15-13 mark since taking over on an interim basis, taking the club to 24-32 and only 1 1/2 games behind Indiana for the eighth and final play-off spot in the Eastern Conference.

The club has two victories over division leaders Chicago

under Silas, who survived a blood-clot health scare in 2009.

"This team has made great strides in the eight weeks since Paul has taken over," Bobcats general manager Rod Higgins said. "Under his leadership we have seen our team play with confidence, enthusiasm and pride."

Silas has a career coaching record of 370-413 with the Los Angeles Clippers from 1980-1983, Charlotte-New Orleans Hornets from 1999-2003 and Cleveland Cavaliers from 2003-2005. He spent 11 seasons as an NBA assistant coach.



Danica Patrick (C), driver of the #7 GoDaddy.com Chevrolet, talks with crew members in the garage prior to practice for the NASCAR Nationwide Series DRIVE4COPD 300 at Daytona International Speedway on February 16, 2011 in Daytona Beach, Florida. Jason Smith (AFP photo)



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Pujols, Cardinals miss deadline for deal extension



JUPITER, Florida (AFP) – Albert Pujols and the St. Louis Cardinals missed their Wednesday deadline to negotiate a new contract before the start of the 2011 Major League Baseball season next month.

That means the 31-year-old Dominican slugger, a

three-time National League Most Valuable Player, is all-but certain to test his value as a free agent after the upcoming campaign.

"We are greatly disappointed at this outcome," Cardinals chairman William DeWitt said Wednesday. "We will revisit it again following the 2011 season, at which time we will again make every effort to keep him as a Cardinal."

The Cardinals are willing to negotiate but Pujols does not want such talks to interfere with the new season, in which he will be paid 16 million dollars, one-quarter of it deferred.

Dan Lozano, the agent for Pujols, said in a statement

that the passing of the deadline does not mean for certain that his "iconic" client will not be wearing a Cardinals uniform in 2012.

"The expiration of today's deadline does not eliminate the possibility of Albert returning to the Cardinals in 2012, but simply delays negotiations until the conclusion of the Cardinals' season," he said.

Players arrive this week for the start of pre-season training workouts.

Pujols has played all 10 of his major league seasons with the Cardinals, becoming the only player in Major League Baseball history to his at least 30 home runs in each year of his first decade in the league.

Manning given franchise tag by Colts



INDIANAPOLIS (AFP) - Four-time MVP Peyton Manning has been designated with the "franchise tag," a move that means no other National Football League team can negotiate with the Indianapolis Colts quarterback.

The tag effectively locks up the star quarterback for at least one more season while

Manning and the Colts try to agree on a long-term contract extension.

Indianapolis owner Jim Irsay announced the tag on his Twitter feed Tuesday.

"We have placed the franchise tag on Peyton while we continue to negotiate a long term deal," Irsay wrote.

The Colts are expected to offer Manning more money than the 72-million-dollar deal Tom Brady signed five months ago with the New England Patriots.

In 13 NFL seasons, Manning has broken all the franchise's career records for quarterbacks and won a Super Bowl. He was also named MVP of the Super Bowl and has never missed a start.

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